

Roca Speech

East Berlin Deutschlandsender in German to Germany 1530 GMT
25 October 1962--L

(Direct relay of a speech by Blas Roca to a Cuba solidarity rally outside Humboldt University)

(Text) My first words are words of gratitude for the grand rally with which the people of the capital of the GDR support Cuba's just cause. (Applause) The representatives of the state apparatus, the working people, the men and women of Berlin have met here to protest against the monstrous crime planned by the United States against Cuba. (Applause) Mr. Kennedy, his hysterical members of Congress, the millionaires, the press, radio, and television--they all are trying to whip mankind up with what they call the problem of Cuba. But Cuba is no problem. The problem is the United States. (Shouts and applause) And not only in the Caribbean, but also in Berlin, in Formosa, in Korea, in Vietnam, in Africa, in Asia, in Latin America--everywhere the North Americans are the problem.

The United States, in its self-appointed role as policeman of oppression, as the oppressor of freedom--that is the problem. President Kennedy, in his hypocritical and Pharisee-like manner, has reproached us, little Cuba, with threatening world peace. Cuba, with its 7 million inhabitants compared with 160 million in the United States, Cuba with its 114,000 square kilometers compared with the 9 million square kilometers of the

26 October 1962

United States, can and will never be, nor has ever been, a threat to the security of the United States. This is a hypocritical lie. Every word of President Kennedy's statement with which he justified the blockade of Cuba contained a lie.

They say we are a threat to their security because we have purchased arms from the USSR to defend ourselves. They say that the mere arrival of Soviet arms in Cuba was a threat to the United States. They say that Cuba was being transformed into a Soviet military base and was therefore a threat to the United States. That is what they say, who themselves have a military base on the territory of Cuba, on the soil which belongs to us and which will one day come back to us. (Shouts and applause)

This is said by those who have transformed the Federal Republic into a military base aimed at all socialist countries. This is said by those who have military bases in Germany, in Italy, in Japan, in Vietnam, in Laos, in half the world. It is said by those who have military bases throughout the world, who are sending their arms there in order to supply counterrevolutionaries with weapons. This is said by those who arm the groups which are fighting against the people. The attack by the United States against Cuba began long before the arrival from the USSR had arrived in Cuba. The attack of the world imperialism against Cuba began when there were only three American weapons in Cuba--the North American weapons which North America sent there to fight against our revolution. When these weapons fell into the hands of the people, when the people demanded full freedom, when the revolutionary government met this demand--that is when the attack of the world imperialism began on Cuba.

When we carried out the land reform, the first war attack by the U.S. imperialists began. For the United States and it is its duty throughout the world to defend the estate owners, the monopolists, the capitalists, the exploiters of the people. That is what to blockade us because we have bought weapons from the USSR.

We have received Soviet arms. I think we will continue to receive them. (Shouting and applause) And we intend to continue to arm ourselves. If they think that they can carry out their imperialist policy with the same intention as they had at the beginning, they will meet a nation which is even stronger, a nation filled with weapons, and they will suffer an even worse defeat than they suffered on the 1st of May. (Shouting and stormy applause) We have armed ourselves because we do not want to be harmed in the face of aggression by the imperialist North American imperialists.

We have armed ourselves not because we need these arms to suppress a counterrevolution because we can eliminate these people by any means. (Applause) We have not armed ourselves to export our revolution. We have not armed ourselves to attack any other Latin American country or to force upon it any social or economic system. Revolution is not for export. The people make the revolutions. Cuba has made its revolution, and all peoples of Latin America will also make their revolutions. (Ovation)

We have armed ourselves to defend ourselves exclusively against North American aggression. Why does the United States attack us? They attack us because in Cuba the sovereignty and the right of self-determination (have been realized?), and they attack us because they are against sovereignty and against self-determination. They attack us because Cuba is free territory in America, and they are the enemies of freedom in America. They attack us because Cuba is socialism, and they are the enemies of socialism. They attack us because Cuba defends peace, and they are the enemies of peace. They attack us because Cuba is the representative of the struggle against unemployment and hunger, against want and exploitation, and they attack us because they themselves wield the scourge of unemployment and want, of oppression and hunger and exploitation.

They believe they can easily defeat the Cuban revolution by their aggression, but the Cuban revolution cannot be defeated. (Applause) From 1918 until now, no socialist revolution which has come to power has ever been defeated. (Applause)

It is the estate owners, the capitalists, and the imperialists who have suffered one defeat after another since 1917. They believed they could easily defeat the Cuban revolution, but they forgot that there exists in the world the mighty socialist camp and the great camp of peace. They did not bear in mind that we are living in the epoch of transition from capitalism to socialism, an inevitable fact of history. They did not bear in mind that today the socialist camp and the camp of peace is far stronger than the imperialist camp and the camp of war. They believed that they could easily defeat the Cuban revolution but did not bear in mind that the Cuban people are firmly united. They did not take into account that all revolutionary trends and parties have united in one monolithic bloc, the Integrated Revolutionary Organizations. They did not bear in mind that the Cuban people are firmly resolved to advance on the path of Marxism-Leninism, the path which will lead all people inevitably and unswervingly to the victory of liberation. (Applause)

They did not bear in mind that our nation is an heroic nation, an invincible nation, a nation which has made its slogan "revolution or death" and is willing to die for its victorious cause. (Applause)

They did not bear in mind that with the Cuban people and with the party of the Cuban people is their leader, Comrade Fidel Castro, who leads the people along the correct path. (Applause and shouting) They did not bear in mind that Cuba is more than little Cuba, because Cuba is not alone. With Cuba are the people of Latin America. With Cuba are the working people of the world and all the people who love independence and peace. With Cuba is the great and invincible socialist camp headed by the great and invincible power, the USSR. (Stormy applause) The entire socialist camp headed by the great USSR has proved its great solidarity with Cuba. Since the beginning of our revolution, this solidarity has grown steadily greater and deeper.

The GDR has been a tremendous help to us during this development. The imperialist masters of the German Federal Republic, on the other hand, who have betrayed the wishes, the hopes, and the interests of the German people, have given their cynical and criminal support to those measures which the U.S. Government has started against Cuba. The GDR, our sister, as the representative of the interests (of all the German people?), has united itself with Cuba and protests and demonstrates against the piracy of Kennedy and his allies. (Applause)

The GDR and the Cuban Republic are one. They are united by the same ideals, imbued by the same love for peace, and united by the same Marxist-Leninist ideology. They are united in building socialism, in building the socialist society, without exploiters and exploited. They are united in antifascism and anti-imperialism. They are united in the face of the gigantic dangers threatening all of mankind from North American aggression.

In exactly the same way as the GDR extends its solidarity to Cuba and protests against the North American blockade, so the Cuban Republic supports the just demands of the GDR for a peace treaty (applause) and for the elimination of the center of aggression and provocation which the imperialists have set up in West Berlin. The wall that has been built in Berlin is a barrier against the warmongers and imperialists (applause), in exactly the same way as the Caribbean will be a grave for the warmongers and imperialists. (Applause) At this wall the GDR people stand on guard for peace. On the coast of the Caribbean the Cuban people stand on guard for peace, on guard for the freedom of the nations. (Applause) The warmongers cannot get across the wall, nor can the warmongers get across the wall which the Cuban revolution has erected, the invincible wall at which Cuba defends peace. (Applause)

EAST GERMANY
26 October 1962

Cuba will fend off the blockade. With the help of the socialist countries it will defeat the blockade. Cuba, exactly as the USSR, wants to do everything to settle the questions in the world by negotiations. Although the North American imperialists are arrogant, aggressive, and reactionary, we are ready to negotiate with them. We can negotiate, and we are willing to negotiate, but if they do not want to negotiate, if they prefer to be wrong, if they want to use the weapons of aggression against us as Kennedy said yesterday, if he wants to take recourse to invasion and to let the guns speak, he will find a nation which also has guns and can also fire these guns (Shouting and applause) We shall do everything in our power to stay the hand of the aggressor. If they push aside the hands that are stretched out toward them, their hands must be cut off. (Applause)

Once more, comrades, our many thanks for this demonstration of solidarity. (Applause) Long live peace! (Applause) Long live the international solidarity of the peoples! (Applause) Long live socialism! (Applause) Long live the friendship between the Cuban Republic and the GDR! (Applause) Long live the GDR! (Applause) Long live Comrades Ulbricht and Grotewohl! (Applause) Long live the German people! (Applause) Long live socialist Cuba, the free territory in America! (Applause and shouting "Cuba si, Yankee, no.") Long live our party and our leader, Comrade Fidel Castro! (Ovation) Fatherland or death we vow! (Ovation).

(Editor's Note: The announcer introducing the rally said that tens of thousands of Berliners--ADN mentions the figure of 250,000--had assembled on August Bebel Square in front of Humboldt University.)